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June 9, 2003

TO:

Minerals File

www.nr.utah.gov

FROM:

Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE:

Site Inspection, Sawtooth Stone LLC, Sawtooth Stone #1 Quarry, S/003/067, Box Elder

County, Utah

Date of Inspection:

May 29, 2003

Time of Inspection:

8:00 a.m. clear, warm

Conditions: Participants:

Bruce Mitchell, operator, Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To approve requested variances and verify site location.

Getting to the site:

Access to this quarry was made by continuing on an existing two-track road from Gold Star Stone's Lone Pine Quarry (permit M/003/050).

Observations:

When reviewing the notice there was a concern because the location of the two pits associated with this permit appeared to be located on property belonging to American Stone. Using a GPS, the locations of the two quarries were located and plotted on the attached map.

Pit #1 currently has about 1.38 acres of disturbance. This pit was operated by another operator in the late 1990's (unpermitted). Soil material was not salvaged from the area prior to quarrying. Therefore, there is no soil available for reclamation of the 1.38 acres. The past activities left a waste dump along the southern perimeter. Immediately south of the dump (currently undisturbed) there appears to be a considerable amount of topsoil. The operator proposed to strip the soil on this area so that the dump could be graded to a more reasonable slope. This soil would then be available for reclamation of a portion of the area. Observations of the highwall confirm statements that topsoil in the area to be mined is sparse to nonexistent. Topsoil occurs sporadically in small pockets in the proposed mining area. The operator indicated that, if possible, he would salvage these pockets of soil as the operation advances along the ridge.

Access to Pit #2 (proposed) will require approximately 330 feet of new road be constructed. Otherwise access is on existing two-track roads. The operator indicated that there would be about two acres of disturbance associated with this area for the first year.



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We also looked at areas where the operator would like to explore to determine if commercial quality and quantity of rock is available. He will be submitting an exploration notice to cover these areas. If stone is available, he will include these areas in a large mining operation that will incorporate both the small mining area and the exploration area.

A variance was also requested for regrading, to leave potential highwalls steeper than 45 degrees. Plans are to reduce highwalls to the extent possible, while leaving a pad area for post-mining land use. There were not many cliff-forming outcrops of the rock in the area of Pit #1. The eastern edge of Pit #2 was a cliff (about 50 feet high). Removal of stone would reduce this cliff. The operator indicated that he did not intend to push materials over the cliff onto the area below.

Photos were taken to document current site conditions.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The locations shown on the original notice were improperly drawn. Pit #1 was located entirely on American Stone Property. Pit #2 had a small portion that was located on American Stone Property. The attached map shows the correct location for these two pits as well as the approximate location of the pits as shown on the original Notice of Intention. A copy of the corrected map will be attached to the Notice.

The requested variance for not salvaging topsoil over the permit area is warranted. The operator will need to save what soil material is available to the south of Pit #1 as well as that soil which occurs in pockets along the ridge, when it is encountered.

The requested variance for regrading can be approved in concept. The operator has committed to reduce highwalls to a 3h:1v slope where possible. Before the Division can give final approval to leave pad areas, the proposed post mining land use must be demonstrated (i.e. contracts, building permits, zoning approvals, etc.).

jb
Attachment: GPS generated map
cc: Bruce Mitchell, Sawtooth Stone, LLC
O:\M003-Box Elder\M0030016-DoveCreek\inspections\insp-05292003.dcc

